

CLAIM AMENDMENTS:

1. (currently amended) A terminal fitting~~(10; 110)~~ made of a conductive plate material stamped out into a specified shape, comprising:

a main body~~(13; 117)~~;

a coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ extending from an outer peripheral edge of the main body~~(13; 117)~~; and

a wire connection portion~~(17; 111)~~ extending from an extending end of the coupling~~(16; 130)~~;

wherein the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ has reinforcing means ~~(20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~ formed by folding at least one reinforcing plate ~~(20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~ from the main body into contact with the coupling and at least one fastener folded from the coupling into engagement with a surface of the reinforcing plate facing away from the coupling.

2. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein the at least one ~~reinforcing plate (20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~ fastener is folded at lateral edges of the coupling~~(16; 130)~~.

3. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim ~~1~~ 2, wherein the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ is formed with side walls ~~(22; 133)~~ standing up along lateral edges thereof.

4. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 3, wherein at least one of the side walls (22; 133) and the reinforcing plates (20; 26; 107; 108) fastener are substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling~~(16; 130)~~.

5. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 4, wherein the wire connection portion ~~(17; 111)~~ is a barrel with a bottom plate ~~(17G)~~ substantially continuous with the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ and crimping pieces ~~(17A; 17B; 113)~~ standing up from lateral edges of the bottom plate ~~(17G)~~, the crimping pieces ~~(17A; 17B; 113)~~ and the side walls ~~(22; 133)~~ being substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~.

6. (currently amended) ~~The A terminal fitting of claim 1, wherein~~
made of a conductive plate material stamped out into a specified shape, comprising:

a main body;

a coupling extending from an outer peripheral edge of the main body, the
coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ is being formed with a narrow reinforcing rib ~~(47; 132)~~ extending substantially along an extending direction of the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~; and

a wire connection portion extending from an extending end of the
coupling;

wherein the coupling has reinforcing means formed by folding at least one
reinforcing plate.

7. (currently amended) ~~The A terminal fitting of claim 1~~ made of a
conductive plate material stamped out into a specified shape, comprising:

a main body;

a coupling extending from an outer peripheral edge of the main body; and

a wire connection portion extending from an extending end of the
coupling;

wherein the coupling has reinforcing means formed by folding at least one flat reinforcing plate, and wherein the at least one flat reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ is placed on the coupling ~~(130)~~, the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ having displacement preventing means ~~(140; 142; 134; 137)~~ engaged with each other for preventing displacements of the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ along a thickness direction ~~(TD)~~ and displacements along directions parallel to facing surfaces thereof.

8. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the displacement preventing means ~~(140; 142; 134; 137)~~ includes an engaging hole ~~(140)~~ and an engaging projection ~~(142)~~, the engaging hole ~~(140)~~ being formed in one of the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ in an area where the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ is placed on the coupling ~~(130)~~.

9. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 8, wherein the engaging projection ~~(142)~~ is formed on the other of the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ to project to a side where the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ contact each other and at a position for engaging the engaging hole ~~(142)~~.

10. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 9, wherein the engaging projection ~~(142)~~ has a height longer than the depth of the engaging hole ~~(142)~~, a leading end of the engaging projection ~~(142)~~ projecting out from the engaging hole ~~(140)~~ to define a projecting portion pressed into contact with an opening edge of the engaging hole in the thickness direction ~~(TD)~~.

11. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, wherein the displacement preventing means ~~(140; 142; 134; 137)~~ include at least one cut ~~(134)~~ and at least one fastener ~~(137)~~.

12. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 11, wherein the cut ~~(134)~~ is formed by cutting off an edge of one of the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ and has two edges substantially facing each other along a longitudinal direction.

13. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 12, wherein the fastener ~~(137)~~ is on the other of the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ and is crimped into contact with a surface adjacent the cut ~~(134)~~ for holding the coupling ~~(130)~~ and the reinforcing plate ~~(106)~~ at a position adjacent the cut ~~(134)~~, and opposite edges of the fastener ~~(137)~~ contacting the opposite edges of the cut ~~(134)~~.

14. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 7, further comprising return preventing means ~~(120; 121)~~ in the main body ~~(117)~~ for holding the terminal fitting ~~(110)~~ assembled with a second terminal fitting ~~(150)~~.

15. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 14, wherein the return preventing means ~~(120; 121)~~ includes a return preventing hole ~~(120)~~ in one of the terminal fittings ~~(110; 150)~~ and a return preventing projection ~~(121)~~ at the other thereof, each return preventing projection ~~(121)~~ being formed by cutting and bending and opposite ends of a cut side of each return preventing projection being coupled to the main body.

16. (currently amended) A terminal fitting assembly, comprising:

a first terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ having a first main body ~~(13; 117)~~, a coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ extending from an outer peripheral edge of the first main body ~~(13; 117)~~, and a first wire connection portion ~~(17; 111)~~ extending from an extending end of the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~, the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ having reinforcing means ~~(20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~ formed by folding at least one reinforcing plate ~~(20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~, the first main body ~~(13; 117)~~ having a layered structure formed by folding a single plate ~~(50A; 106)~~ substantially continuous with the reinforcing plate ~~(20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~ to have a first thickness ~~(Ta)~~, a first lock ~~(15; 124)~~ standing up by a selected distance ~~(Ta)~~ from the outer peripheral edge of the first main body ~~(13; 117)~~;

a second terminal fitting ~~(30; 60; 150)~~ having second main body ~~(33; 63)~~ with a second thickness ~~(Ta)~~ and a second lock ~~(45; 65)~~ standing up from an outer peripheral edge of the second main body ~~(33; 63)~~ by a distance substantially equal to the thickness ~~(Ta)~~ of the first main body ~~(13; 117)~~; and

the first terminal fitting ~~(10; 110)~~ being assembled with the second terminal fitting ~~(30; 60; 150)~~ so that the second main body ~~(33; 63)~~ is held between the first main body ~~(13; 117)~~ and the first lock ~~(15; 124)~~ and the first main body ~~(13; 117)~~ is held between the second main body ~~(33; 63)~~ and the second lock ~~(45; 65)~~.

17. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 16, wherein the at least one reinforcing plate ~~(20; 26; 107; 108; 133)~~ is folded at lateral edges of the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~.

18. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 17, wherein the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ is formed with side walls ~~(22; 133)~~ standing up along lateral edges thereof.

19. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 18, wherein the side walls ~~(22; 133)~~ and the reinforcing plates ~~(20; 26; 107; 108)~~ are substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~.

20. (currently amended) The terminal fitting of claim 19, wherein the wire connection portion ~~(17; 111)~~ is a barrel with a bottom plate ~~(17G)~~ substantially continuous with the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~ and crimping pieces ~~(17A; 17B; 113)~~ standing up from lateral edges of the bottom plate ~~(17G)~~, the crimping pieces ~~(17A; 17B; 113)~~ and the side walls ~~(22; 133)~~ being substantially continuous with each other along the lateral edges of the coupling ~~(16; 130)~~.